(c) No other national or international oil company is engaged in oil production by ONGC in Bombay High. However, Engineers India Ltd. have been retained as consultants.

(d) Crude oil production target of ONGC in 1990-91 has been fixed at 33 million tonnes.

Assocham suggestions for on shore exploration

424. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged Government to allow foreign oil companies to undertake on shore oil exploration work as the ONGC and Oil India have no resources;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) what other steps Government propose to take to boost oil exploration activities in the on shore?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) No such proposal seems to have been received from Associated Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Oil exploration activities are undertaken in onshore sedimentary basins in the country. Intensive oil exploration in producing basins and extensive exploration in other basins is an integeral party of the VIIIth Five Year Plan Programme.

Further in order to supplement oil exploration activities of ONGC/OIL, an exercise has been initiated to invite foreign oil companies also for oil exploration in India on production sharing basis under the proposed Fourth Round of bidding.

Difficulty in getting Crude oil from other countries

425. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state (a) whether Government are facing difficulty in getting crude oil from several foreign countries due to war-like situation in the Gulf;

(b) whether some countries have increased the price of crude oil so high that our country is unable to buy the same; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what efforts are being taken to get crude oil from foreign countries at a reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. P. MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) As a result of developments in the Gulf in August 1990 and thereafter, the supply of crude oil from Kuwait and Iraq has been disrupted. However, it has been possible to get additional supplies from other term suppliers and through spot purchases to compensate the quantities of crude oil which were disrupted because of stoppage of supplies from Kuwait and Iraq.

Price of crude oils in the international market have risen sharply due to warlike situation in the Gulf since August 1990. Since all the contracts for import of crude oil are on market related price, the crude has to be imported at the prevailing high prices. However, all efforts have been made to get additional supplies from term suppliers so that higher premiums which otherwise would have to be paid under spot purchases can be saved.

Threat of agitation by the All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teacher's Association

426. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTUM:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Kendriya Vidyalya Teacher's Association has threatened to resume their suspended